

NO: **R046**

COUNCIL DATE: **MARCH 31, 2014**

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **March 13, 2014**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **2320-20/H**

SUBJECT: **Award of Tree Watering Contract (No. 1220-040-2012-014)**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council approve an extension to Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014 with Dougherty Investments Ltd, DBA Horizon Landscape Contractors, for the watering of street trees and park trees to October 31, 2014 in the amount of \$700,000 including applicable taxes.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to extend an existing contract through 2014 related to the watering of street trees and park trees.

## BACKGROUND

Street trees and park shade trees require supplemental watering during the first six to eight years following planting, depending on the weather during any given year. For 2014 there are approximately 24,000 trees that may need to be watered at the peak of the summer dry period. Approximately 5% of the watering is carried out by City staff with the remainder undertaken by a qualified external contractor.

In May 2012, through Corporate Report No. R099, 2012 (attached as Appendix I), Council approved the award of Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014 for the watering of street and park trees in 2012 to Dougherty Investments Ltd., DBA Horizon Landscape Contractors, in the amount of \$566,168 plus applicable taxes. In September, 2012, due to a dry summer, an amending agreement was prepared and a further \$50,000 was added to the value of the contract to a total value in 2012 of \$616,168 plus applicable taxes. The term of the contract was from May 15, 2012 to December 31, 2012. The contract included an option in favour of the City to extend its term for an additional two years.

In January 2013, through Corporate Report No. R015, 2013 (attached as Appendix II), Council approved the renewal of Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014 for the watering of street and park trees in 2013 with Dougherty Investments Ltd., DBA Horizon Landscape Contractors, in the amount of \$620,000 plus applicable taxes. The contract included an option in favour of the City to extend its term for a third and final year.

## **DISCUSSION**

The work carried out by Dougherty Investments Ltd., DBA Horizon Landscape Contractors, during 2012 and 2013 has been fully satisfactory. This company has sufficient resources and expertise to undertake the necessary work with high quality and has a very good safety record.

### Financial Evaluation for 2014

The 2014 contract rates remain the same as the rates that were applicable in 2012, with the exception of the rate to fill water bags at the base of trees.

The City's water bag component of the watering program was a new initiative in 2012 and the City continues to utilize water bags on the most heavily drought-stressed trees. Water bags provide a greater volume of water and a more effective application of water to the tree which increases likelihood of tree survival.

The total anticipated cost of the work under the contract in 2014 is \$700,000, plus applicable taxes. This amount reflects the general increase in the number of trees for 2014 and the general trend toward drier summers where more watering is required. This amount is available in the 2014 component of the 2014 – 2018 Five-Year Financial Plan as approved by Council.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The City's street trees and park trees represent a significant green infrastructure investment. Well-managed trees beautify the City, provide habitat, mitigate storm water run-off, off-set carbon emissions and filter other pollutants. Regular watering of young trees helps to reduce tree failure and increase the service life of the trees. This is consistent with the objectives of the City Sustainability Charter; more particularly, Environmental Sustainability Goal EC3: undertake the maintenance of infrastructure for sustainability.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council authorize the extension through 2014 of Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014 with Dougherty Investments Ltd., DBA Horizon Landscape Contractors, for the watering of street trees and park trees up to a maximum amount of \$700,000, plus applicable taxes.

Laurie Cavan,  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix I – Corporate Report No. R099: 2012  
Appendix II – Corporate Report No. R015: 2013



## CORPORATE REPORT

NO: **R099** COUNCIL DATE: **May 7, 2012**

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### REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **April 27, 2012**  
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **0350-01**  
SUBJECT **Award of Tree Watering Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014**

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### RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council approve the award of tree watering contract No. 1220-040-2012-014 to Dougherty Investments Ltd. dba Horizon Landscape Contractors to a maximum value of \$566,168 plus HST for the watering of street and park trees in 2012.

### INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to award of a contract for the watering of street trees and park trees in 2012.

### BACKGROUND

Street trees and park shade trees require supplemental watering during the first six to eight years after they are first planted with the amount of watering in any year dependent on rainfall during that year. Based on current inventories there are approximately 21,000 trees that need to be watered during 2012. Approximately 5% of the tree watering is carried out by City staff with the remainder undertaken by a contractor.

### DISCUSSION

A request for expression of interest and statement of qualifications was advertised on the B.C. Bid website and the City website. Two companies responded. Both companies were evaluated with respect to the requirements of the request and subsequently were invited to submit a quotation to provide tree watering services.

The proponents provided a quote on the rate to water trees by various categories. Structuring the contract on a cost per tree basis, rather than an hourly rate, ensures efficient performance by the contractor. A separate rate is requested for each of trees located in parks and trees located on streets and for each of different age categories of trees.

Based on the numbers of trees in each component of the contract, the following represents the value of the quote from each of the two pre-qualified contractors:

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Dougherty Investments Ltd. DBA Horizon Landscape Contractors | \$ 566,168  |
| 2. D.J. Weedbusters Ltd.  | \$1,133,533 |

Based on previous experience and reference checks, Dougherty Investments has the expertise and capacity to deliver the services that are required under the subject contract. As such, based on their quote being the lower of the two submissions, staff is recommending that the subject contract be awarded to Dougherty Investments Ltd.

**Funding:**

Funding for the contract is contained within the approved 2012 budget.

**SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The City's street and park trees represent a significant green infrastructure investment. Well-managed trees beautify the City, provide habitat, mitigate storm water run-off, off-set carbon emissions and filter other pollutants. Regular structural pruning of the trees helps to reduce tree failure and increase the service life of the trees. This is consistent with the objectives of the City Sustainability Charter; more particularly, Environmental Sustainability Goal EC3: being to undertake the maintenance of infrastructure for sustainability.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the above discussion it is recommended that Council approve the award of tree watering contract No. 1220-040-2012-014 to Dougherty Investments Ltd. dba Horizon Landscape Contractors to a maximum value of **\$566,168** plus HST for the watering of street and park trees in 2012.

Laurie Cavan,  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation and Culture



## CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R015

COUNCIL DATE: January 28, 2013

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### REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **January 23, 2013**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **2320-20/H**

SUBJECT **Award of Tree Watering Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014**

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### RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council authorize the extension through 2013 of Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014 with Dougherty Investments Ltd., DBA Horizon Landscape Contractors, for the watering of street trees and park trees up to a maximum amount of \$620,000, plus applicable taxes.

### INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to exercise the option of extending through 2013 an existing contract related to the watering of street trees and park trees.

### BACKGROUND

Street trees and park shade trees require supplemental watering during the first six to eight years following planting depending on the weather during any given year. For 2013 there are approximately 23,000 trees that may need to be watered at the peak of the summer dry period. Approximately 5% of the watering is carried out by City staff with the remainder undertaken by a contractor.

In May, 2012 Council approved the recommendations of Corporate Report No. R099, which authorized the award of Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014 for the watering of street and park trees in 2012 to Dougherty Investments Ltd. DBA Horizon Landscape Contractors ("Horizon"), in the amount of \$566,168 plus HST. In September, 2012, due to a dry summer, an amending agreement was prepared and a further \$50,000 was added to the value of the contract for a total value in 2012 of \$616,168 plus taxes. The contract included an option in favour of the City to extend its term through 2013.

## **DISCUSSION**

The work carried out by Horizon during 2012 was fully satisfactory. The contractor has sufficient resources and expertise to undertake the necessary work to a very satisfactory level and has a good safety record.

### Financial Evaluation for 2013

The 2013 contract rates remain the same as the 2012 contract rates. Staff is satisfied that these rates represent good value to the City for the subject work.

The total anticipated cost of the work under the contract for 2013 is \$620,000, plus applicable taxes. This amount reflects the increase in the number of trees that may require watering in 2013 and the general trend toward drier summers where more watering is required.

Funding in support of this contract is available in the approved 2013 operating budget.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The City's street trees and park trees represent a significant green infrastructure investment. Well-managed trees beautify the City, provide habitat, mitigate storm water run-off, off-set carbon emissions and filter other pollutants. Regular watering of the trees helps to reduce tree failure and increase the service life of the trees. This is consistent with the objectives of the City Sustainability Charter; more particularly, Environmental Sustainability Goal EC3: undertake the maintenance of infrastructure for sustainability.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council authorize the extension through 2013 of Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014 with Dougherty Investments Ltd., DBA Horizon Landscape Contractors, for the watering of street trees and park trees up to a maximum amount of \$620,000, plus applicable taxes.

Laurie Cavan,  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation and Culture